

Dr. Hunt, on invitation, described the history of geological opinion respecting the gneisses, green rocks and other metamorphic strata of the Alps, with the recent accordance of the views of Gastaldi and Favre, as opposed to those of Lory and others, with previously published views of his own, after he had recognized the Laurentian, Huronian and Montalban systems in the massif of Mont Blanc.

Pending nominations Nos. 804, 805, 806, and 807 were read.

On motion the use of the Hall was granted to the Commissioners of the Geological Survey for their meeting on the 19th inst.

On motion of Mr. Pearse it was resolved, That the Board of Commissioners be requested to recommend to the Governor of Pennsylvania the propriety of taking such measures as may be necessary for preserving the collections of the Geological Survey in the same place in which the collections presented by the Commissioners of foreign governments may be arranged.

And the meeting was adjourned.

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*Stated Meeting, October 7th, 1876.*

Present, 10 members.

Secretary, DR. LE CONTE, in the Chair.

Dr. Moor, a newly elected member, was introduced to the presiding officer and took his seat.

A letter of acknowledgment was received from the Observatory at Prague, dated Sept. 4 (XV, ii, 93, 94), from the R. Geological Society of Ireland, Sept. 16th (XIV Proc.), and from various correspondents by postal cards (97).

Letters of envoy were received from the Society at Marburg, April 1876;—the French Ministry of Public Works, Sept. 1876, desiring a return donation of some books on civil engineering or technology for the library of the Ecole des Ponts

et Chaussées in Paris; from the Linnean Society, dated London, Aug. 18th; from the Meteorological Office, dated London, Aug. 1876; from the Secretary of the State of Illinois; and from the Davenport (Iowa) Academy of Natural Sciences, Sept. 15th, desiring complete sets of Transactions and Proceedings.

A letter was received from Mr. C. A. Kesselmeyer, 1 Peter Street, Manchester, England, presenting a copy of his Card Calendarium.

Donations for the Library were received from the R. Belgian Academy; French Ministry of Public Works; Annales des Mines; Nature; Linnean Society; Society of Antiquaries; R. Geological Society of Ireland; Silliman and Dana; Editors of the American Library Journal and Medical News; Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences; and the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences.

Professor Houston made an exhibition of a new telegraphic machine called a "Pneumo-dynamic Relay Sounder," where the local battery is replaced by compressed fluid, and explained it by a working model and diagram. Attached to the armature is a bent lever, with a valve mechanism opening and closing a conduit leading from a reservoir of condensed air. The issuing air swells out a diaphragm of rubber cloth covering a space of one sixty-fourth of an inch, and moves a disc, which moves the striking lever, the return stroke being effected by a spring. The balance of the valve is so adjusted as to diminish for opening the valve. This is affected by an accessory diaphragm pressing upon the other arm of the bent lever; the tension is then equal to the adjusted difference. The instrument works with rapidity enough to get responses easily to thirty-six beats per second.

Pending nominations Nos. 804, 805, 806, 807, and new nomination No. 808, were read.

On motion of Mr. Gabb, the committee on Dr. Valentino's paper was requested to report at the next meeting.

And the meeting was adjourned.